WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of analyzing a digital image channel comprising the steps of:

a) providing a digital image channel;

b) extracting a signal from the digital image channel; and

c) using the extracted signal to determine whether the digital image channel is an interpolated digital image channel or a non-interpolated digital image channel.

2.   The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein step c) further includes determining an estimated factor of interpolation.

3.   The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step b) of extracting a signal comprises extracting a signal related to differences between the values of neighboring pixels of the digital image channel.

4.   The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step c) of using the extracted signal comprises determining the periodicity of the extracted signal by computing a Fourier Transform signal of the extracted signal and looking for peaks in the Fourier Transform signal.

5.   The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein step c) further includes determining the method of interpolation that was used to form the digital image channel.

6.   A image processing system for determining the interpolation attributes of a digital image channel, said system comprising:

means for extracting a signal from the digital image channel; and

means for using the extracted signal to determine whether the digital image channel is an interpolated digital image channel or a non-interpolated digital image channel

7.   The image processing system as claimed in claim 6 wherein said means for using the extracted signal further determines an estimated factor of interpolation.

8.   The image processing system as claimed in claim 6 wherein said means for extracting a signal comprises means for extracting a signal related to differences between the values of neighboring pixels of the digital image channel.

9.   The image processing system as claimed in claim 6 wherein said means for using the extracted signal comprises means for determining the periodicity of the extracted signal by computing a Fourier Transform signal of the extracted signal and looking for peaks in the Fourier Transform signal.

10.   The image processing system as claimed in claim 6 wherein said means for using the extracted signal determines the method of interpolation that was used to form the digital image channel.

11.   The image processing system as claimed in claim 6 further including means for sending a message to a user based on determining whether the digital image channel is an interpolated digital image channel or a non-interpolated digital image channel.

12.   The image processing system as claimed in claim 6 further including means for determining a subsequent image processing channel based on whether the digital image channel is an interpolated digital image channel or a non-interpolated digital image channel.